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THE OBSERVATOR.

Farther Remarks on the Conſpiracy.

From **Wednesday** December the 22d, to **Saturday** December the 25th, 1703.

Country-m. MAſter *Obſervator*, I have examined, according to your Direction, into the Nature of this Helliſh *Jacobite*, *Non-juring Plot*; but I can hear no more of it, than what you told us almoſt Twelve Months ago; and the People at *London* ſay, That either you had better *Intelligence* than ſome ſort of People, that you are a *Prophet*, or that you are concerned in the *Plot* your ſelf. I ſtood up ſtifly in your Vindication, and ſaid, That about *June* laſt, a Bill was brought againſt you at the *Old-Bayly* for Publiſhing to the World, that many Diſaffected Perſons were come from *France*, and that the *Papiſts* did Inſult Her Majeſties Government; and hereupon that Ugly Naſty Swine, *Robin Hog*, was let looſe upon you to Devour you, as if you had been a Bunch of *Turneps* or *Carrots:* Every Body remembers how Induſtrious that Fellow was to find you Guilty of Writing againſt the *Papiſts*, when at the ſame time he was their *Sollicitor*. I remember very well too, how he was *Advocate* for the *Popiſh-Club* in *Black-Fryers*, who Collected Money, and had a Fund, I am afraid for no good Uſe. There are an Hundred things have come into my mind of what you have ſaid in Relation to this *Plot*, for which the *Jacobites* and *High-Flyers* have *Miſrepreſented* you to Her Majeſty and the Kingdom. I Pray God Reward you, for you have ſpoken the Truth, tho' you have Suffered for it in your Reputation.

Obſ. The People of *London* may ſay what they Pleaſe of me, as may any Body elſe; all the *Calumnies*, the *Invictives*, the *Frowns* or *Threats*, of Evil Men ſhall never affrighten me from performing that Duty I owe to my Dear Country. I was Stark-Naked when I firſt drew my Breath in *Engliſh* Air; and I tell thee plainly, I will loſe my Skin before I'll part with the *Engliſh Liberties*, the preſent *Government*, and the Succeſſion in the *Proteſtant Line*, as by Law Eſtabliſh'd. The *Liberties* of *Engliſhmen* are ſo valuable, that *Life* it ſelf cannot ſtand in Competition with them, and in the effecting of which, a Man not only proves himſelf a good *Patriot*, but a good *Chriſtian*; for no one can be eſteemed a *Friend* of *God*, that is an *Enemy* to his *Country*.

I do not in the leaſt pretend to a *Prophetick Spirit*; I am no *Apocalyptical* Doctor of Divinity, Bred at the Feet of your *Jurieu*'s, *la March*'s, or *Beverley*'s. I remember I once look'd into a *Latin* Treatiſe *de Excidio Anti-chriſti*, and when I came to this Poſition, *Prophetiæ nunquam Intelliguntur ante Complementum.* i. e. *Propheſies are never underſtood before they are fulfi'd*, I laid the Book aſide, and have never ſince Enquired into thoſe things, which ſeem Concealed, and beyond the reach of *Humane Reaſon*. Without doubt the Fall of *Antichriſt*, of that *He-Whore* of *Babylon*, who has been ſo often Drunk with the Blood of the Saints, is Predetermined by the Supream Governour of the Univerſe; but theſe things are laid in the Inſcrutable Womb of *Providence*, which no *Eye* can Penetrate, and *Humane Wiſdom* cannot Fathom. We can only Judge of things as they lie open to our View, and from Occurring Circumſtances we may draw Rational Concluſions of Future Events, as in the Caſe of this Plot now before us.

What is the Reaſon that *Engliſhmen* ſtand amazed at the Diſcovery of this Helliſh Conſpiracy againſt the Beſt of Queens, and the *Proteſtant Religion?* Is it a new thing? Do our Hiſtories afford us no Inſtances of the like Nature? Are not our *Chronicles* full of *Plots* and *Rebellion* of *Papiſts*, and their Pretended *Proteſtant Abettors*, who are the worſt of our *Enemies?* Are there not Thouſands now Living who remember the dreadful Conflagration, when the moſt Noble *Emporium* of the Univerſe was reduc'd to Aſhes by the hands of Villanous *Incendiaries?* Have we not a *Monument* Erected on this Account, as a Memorial thereof to future Ages? Is the horrid *Popiſh-Plot* in the Reign of King *Charles* the Second out of Memory? Have we forgot the Murder of Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey*, the Aſſaſſination of Juſtice *Arnold*, and many other Inſtances of *Popiſh Cruelty?* Are theſe new things? Why do you ſtand Amazed, and Stare at common Objects?

But there was the greateſt Reaſon to imagine the *Papiſts* would now, with the greater Induſtry and Application, carry on their Deſigns againſt the *Crown* and *Commonwealth* of *England:* For tho', by the *Revolution*, they loſt Poſſeſſion of the *Throne*, and of the *Government* of *England*; yet at that time they gain'd a Party which before had no Occaſion of ſhowing themſelves, I mean, the *Old-Revolution, Non-juring Party*, who are as great Enemies to the *Queen* and the *Liberties* of *England*, as are the *Papiſts*, and that upon the ſame Foot of *Principle.*

It is no wonder then that a Villanous Combination of theſe Men ſhould be diſcover'd; that they ſhould enter into *Plots* and *Deſigns* of Aſſaſſinations againſt the Beſt of Queens: Did they not do the ſame againſt the Beſt of Kings, Her Glorious Predeceſſor, the Mighty *William* of Immortal Memory? Was not that a *Party-Coloured* Cabal of *Papiſts* and *Church-Non-jurors*, and the matter of Fact was ſo Evident, that the Criminals themſelves Confeſs'd it at their Execution; and you'll find this *Plot* of the ſame Nature, and carry'd on by Perſons of the ſame Principles.

Now, ſince we have among us ſo many Men of *Evil Principles*, *Papiſts*, and *Non-jurors*, who are Open and Profeſs'd Enemies to our *Queen*, to the *Engliſh Conſtitution*, and the *Proteſtant Religion.*

We

We might reaſonably Conclude that they would Concert Meaſures with our Enemies beyond the Seas, for the Subverſion of our *Laws* and *Liberties*.

And we knowing our ſelves beſet with ſuch deadly Enemies, both within us and without us, we ought to have uſed all *Precautions* for the Publick ſafety. 'Tis the part of a Valiant Man to Extricate himſelf from the forcible Attempts of his Enemies; but 'tis the part of a Prudent Man to fore-ſee Dangers, and to know how to avoid them. He's a Wiſe *Sailor*, who like Sir *Clowdſley Shovel*, can ſail Securely thro' *Hurricanes* and *Tempeſts*; but neither the Judgment nor Courage of that Man is Commendable that puts to Sea in a *Storm*. An Able Stateſman will always be provided with Preventive Phyſick for the *Body Politick*; he will always have the *Common Enemy* in View; he will Watch all their *Approaches* againſt the State, all their Deſigns againſt the Publick Safety; and will ſo Countermine all their Projects, as that the *Commonwealth* ſhall never Suffer a Surprize; and not to ſuffer an *Open-Rebellion*, on Purpoſe to ſhow the *Power* of the State in ſuppreſſing it. A *Rebellion* may be prevented with ſmall *Coſt* to the State, but it cannot be ſuppreſſed without the *Loſs* of the Lives of the Natives, which, as they are our beſt Defence, ſo are they our greateſt Treaſure, and ought not to be Squander'd away in making Trials of Skill.

It would be an *Invidious*, tho' perhaps a *Neceſſary Enquiry*, to know how well the *Crown* and the *Liberties* of *England* have been ſecured ſince Her Majeſties Happy *Acceſſion* to the *Throne*; however we may with Safety conſider thoſe Things which are our Real and Natural Securities.

The leaſt Encouragement given to *Evil Men*, will Prompt them to *Wicked Deſigns* againſt the State. Thoſe who are Enemies to the *Commonwealth* and *Conſtitution* of *England*, ought not to meet with the leaſt Favour or Countenance from the Publick. The *Papiſts*, who are bound by *Principles* of *Religion* and *Policy* to Subvert the *Laws* and *Conſtitution* of *England*, ſhould always be under the watchful Eye of the *Miniſtry*: They ought to be kept at the greateſt Diſtance from the Royal Perſon of our *Queen*; and our prudent Fore-Fathers ſo well knew the Danger of their Approaches to the Throne, that they made a Law to keep them from the Royal Preſence, with a Penalty of 100 *l.* for any *Papiſt* that ſhould come into the Houſe where the Kings or Queens of *England* ſhould Reſide; nay, That no *Papiſt* ſhould Reſide within ſuch a Diſtance from the City of *London*. It has been the Cuſtom of our Kings to put theſe Laws in Execution againſt the *Papiſts*, and, when any Conſiderable Numbers of them have been known to Reſide in the *Liberties* of the City, to Iſſue Proclamations for their Baniſhments. This has been the uſual Cuſtom in all Reigns that I have liv'ed in, except that of the late K. *James*, and of Her Preſent Majeſty, who is the more the Object of the *Papiſts* Hatred, as She is a Truly *Proteſtant* and *Vertuous* Queen. I can't tell the Reaſons of our Thoughts of Security from *Papiſts* more in this than in former Reigns, that we have not purſued the Methods of our Fore-Fathers, in driving *Papiſts* from the Royal Palace. What can we think of the vaſt Numbers of *Papiſts* at this time in and about the City of *London*, under the Noſe of the *Court* and *Parliament*? Do they not look like a *League*, and that they have drawn their Lines of *Circumvallation* about the *Court*; eſpecially at a Juncture when they are Forming themſelves into *Bodies*, and enter'd into *Conſpiracies* againſt our Queen and Her Government? I ſhall not Determine the Point, how far the *Papiſts* have been Countenanc'd by a *Non-Execution* of the Laws in force againſt them; nor how far it has Encouraged them to Engage in this Horrid *Conſpiracy*: But ſure I am, they are always Vigilant for our *Deſtruction*; and that 'tis contrary to the *Rules* of *Policy*, and the *Intereſt* of this *Government*, to ſhow them the leaſt Favour.

The *Non-jurors* are equally Enemies to this Government, and oppoſe it on the ſame Foot of *Principles*; and when the Nature of this *Plot* is made Publick, I don't doubt of the *Scots Non-juring Clergymen*'s having a Hand in it; for they have Paved the Way to *Rebellion* by their *Writings*, and are at an Agreement with the *Papiſts*. The Author of the Book, call'd, *The Wolf ſtrip'd from his Shepherds Cloathing*, has therein Inveigh'd bitterly againſt the *Diſſenters* on the Account of *Occaſional Conformity*; tho' in a former Book of his, call'd, *The Pontificate* and *Regale*, he juſtifies *Occaſional Conformity* with the Church of *Rome*: And let any Man Judge whether Men of ſuch *Principles* are to receive the leaſt Countenance from the *State*, or to have any Share of Royal Favour, who by their *Diſſent* from the *Church* and the *Government* of *England*, have Declared themſelves Enemies to both. I know not the Apprehenſions of other Men, but I well remember, when I firſt ſaw the *Scots Non-juring Clergymen's* Addreſs in the Publick *Gazette*, that I was then Apprehenſive of what we now find; for ſhewing Favour to Men of ſuch *Principles*, is taking *Vipers* into our Boſom, which will certainly ſting us to Death. And we can never better diſcover the Hidden and Secret Enemies to our *Government*, then by taking Notice of ſuch as have Encouraged theſe Men.——I ſhall ſpeak more of this the next Time we meet.

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